



February 27, 2003

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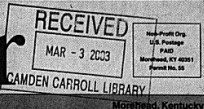
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Volume LXXV, Number 17

Morehead State University

Morehead, Kentucky

The Trail Blazer



MSU employees, health worker indicted Friday

BY MIRANDA WILSON
EDITOR

Two Morehead State University housing employees and a contracted physician assistant were indicted on charges of failing to report a crime, Kentucky State Police officials said.

Residents' hall area coordinator Shannon A. Colvin, 36, of Morehead; former Waterfield Hall director Lisa M. Griffith, 22, of Morehead; and physician's assistant Julianna N. Adams, 31, of Mount Sterling were served Friday with a criminal summons charging them each with duty to report dependency, neglect and abuse, KSP spokesperson Trooper Ralph Lockard said.

Failing to report a crime is a Class B misdemeanor punishable by 12 months in the county jail and a fine of \$500 to \$1,000, Lockard said.

The employees were not arrested but were ordered to appear in Rowan County District Court on March 12, according to court records.

Lockard said as many as six people were under investigation for the same charge.

Colvin has been employed at the university since 1990 and Griffith since 2001.

Adams was contracted to MSU through Morehead Clinic and was not an official MSU employee.

In an interview with The Trail Blazer on Feb. 6, Lockard said employees of the Cadell Health Clinic were also being investigated in connection with whether or not the alleged victim was mistreated.

President Ronald Eaglin said employees at the clinic are not permitted to treat students who are under 18 years old unless they have parental consent forms on file with the clinic.

The alleged victim was 17 years old at the time of her visit on Sept. 16, two days after the alleged assault.

Lockard said, by law, medical professionals are required to treat alleged sexual assault victims who ask to be treated even if they are minors.

Under Kentucky Revised Statute 216B.400, a minor may consent to a rape examination without parental consent.

Eaglin said the alleged victim did not present herself to clinic employees as a rape victim.

MSU spokesperson Keith Kappes said the charges against the three individuals indicate investigators thought the employees should have notified authorities of the alleged incident.

In response to the charges, MSU spokesperson Pauline Young said, "The University has no comment on current or pending litigation."

The charges stemmed from an alleged gang rape that occurred in Waterfield Hall on Sept. 14.

Former MSU students Trevor Duncan, Nathan Blackburn, Quinton Martinelli, Calvin Roach, and Jordan Tackett were arraigned on charges of using a minor in a sexual performance in which injury was inflicted, a Class A felony punishable by 20 years to life in prison.

The alleged victim, who has since turned 18 years old, withdrew from school last fall following the alleged incident.

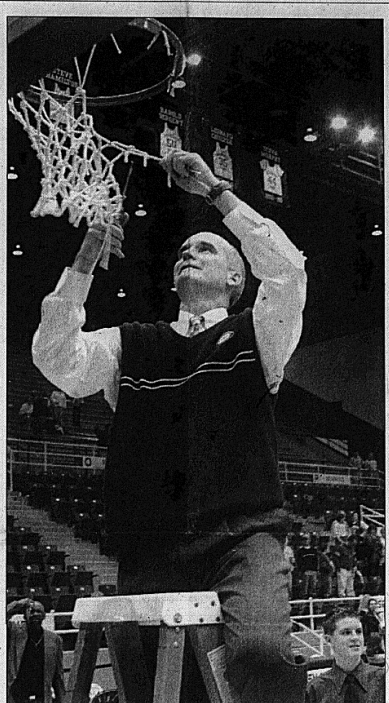


Photo by Brooks Retford

Coach Kyle Macy cuts down the net following the Eagles' Saturday 77-74 win over University of Tennessee-Martin at Johnson Arena. The win gave Morehead State a share of the Ohio Valley Conference title for the first time since the 1983-84 season. The Eagles share the title with Austin Peay. For additional coverage, see Page 7.

Legislators consider cell phone bill

BY ABIGAIL D. MALIK
MANAGING EDITOR

A proposed bill, if passed by the Kentucky Legislature, would make it illegal to talk on a hand-held cell phone while driving.

House Bill 83, proposed by Rep. Reginald Meeks, D-Louisville, would "prohibit operation of a motor vehicle while using a mobile telephone in a call while the vehicle is in motion" without the use of a hands-free device, except in emergency situations.

Communication major Karen King, who says she uses her cell phone "almost every time I'm in the car," disagrees with the proposed ban.

"There are a lot more things more distracting than cell phones. It's a bad idea because, to me, it's much harder to dial a number using a headset," she said.

According to the bill, using a cell phone while driving means, "talking into or listening on a hand-held mobile telephone, but does not include holding a mobile telephone to activate, deactivate, or initiate a function of the telephone."

King said earpieces can fall out and it would be more dangerous looking for it while driving.

King said she wrote a paper concerning cell phone use and driving and according to her research changing a radio station requires more glancing than dialing a number on a cell phone.

Advertising/Public Relations major Shawna Bailey said, "I think it's a bad idea because you sometimes don't have the opportunity to pick up a hands free device and that's more dangerous than holding your phone."

Bailey said the talks on her cell phone while driving. Bailey is among an estimated 134 million people who subscribe to cell phone service, according to Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association.

Agriculture Business major Derrick Lebeau uses his cell phone while driving his manual transmission vehicle. "I have to shift and talk, and I'm still fine," Lebeau said.

Lebeau said he doesn't think it's a good idea to completely ban cell phone use while driving, but it is fine to make hands-free devices mandatory.

Some strongly agree with the guidelines of the proposed bill.

Education major Kinetha Hollifield already uses an earpiece with her cell phone.

"They're so much easier to use instead of holding your phone. I just got my car piece," she said.

For some students safety is the main reason they are in favor of House Bill 83.

Sociology major Sue McKenzie said people should be banned from holding a phone and driving simultaneously.

"You need to have both hands on the wheel at all

See CELL - Page 2

Weather policy endangers lives, students say

BY NICOLE SILVIEY

STAFF WRITER

Some things can be counted on.

It's 7 a.m. and time to start your commute to MSU for your first class but the roads are snow and ice covered, it's 20 degrees and still snowing.

Do you risk your life or your grade by missing a class? Because, as usual, MSU is operating on a regular schedule.

The spring semester of 2003 has had more than normal amounts of

snow, sleet, slippery and water-covered roads. The situation has been hazardous for faculty and staff, commuter students, and even students who live on campus or only travel a few miles.

Faculty, staff and students say they struggled to get to MSU last week, and many say MSU authorities and administrators have been unsympathetic about the power outages, water and heating crises, and travel conditions.

Executive Vice President Michael

Moore said the decision-making policies that is triggered into action, when MSU and the region is threatened by severe weather, was developed two years ago.

The policy is similar to a game of tag. Local weather conditions are speculated by Public Safety Captain Joseph S. Cline and information is then related to Dr. Moore at approximately 8 a.m. to decide whether or not to initiate Plan A, B, or C.

Moore said, "If the main roads are open, 64, 32, and 60, then we will

usually schedule as normal."

Moore said, should there be a suggestion from the Kentucky State Police that advises people to stay off the roads, then MSU would cancel or delay.

Officer Ralph Lockard, with KSP Post Eight in Morehead, said Moore's office has contacted the post in the past.

Lockard said that he was not sure if the

Provost contacted KSP Monday (Feb. 17) or next make the decision to have classes on Tuesday.

See WEATHER - Page 2

Gas hikes hinder travel

Students say trips home take a toll on their budgets

BY HEATHER SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Gas prices have risen steadily across the United States during the past few months.

Some MSU students on a tight budget say because of the cost of gasoline they don't go home as often as they would like.

Chris James, a West Liberty senior says it costs him \$10 to travel 30 miles home in his Sport Utility

Vehicle. He says he only goes home two times a month because of the gas prices.

Melissa Hixeman, from Greentown, says she has been home in a month.

"I really hope to see gas prices go down so I can afford a trip home to bum money for more gas," says Hixeman.

Senior Paul Slope, Louisa, drives to work in Lexington every week-end. He says on average it costs him

\$50 per weekend just for gas.

Some students say they think local gas stations take advantage of the high percentage of students who travel home on the weekends and purposefully raise their prices.

Morehead City Manager Shane Stamper says, although he gets complaints from customers about the high gas prices, there isn't anything he can do. He doesn't make the decision of how to price the gas. City's Corporate Office determines that for each individual station.

See GAS - Page 2



Photo by Mike Deane

These vehicles parked near Nunn Hall were among several damaged when ice laden tree limbs fell during the ice storm that hit Morehead Feb. 15.

Ice topples antenna, knocks WKMY off the air

BY MIRANDA WILSON
STAFF WRITER

As a result of last week's ice storm, Morehead State University's public radio network is operating at reduced level power.

Don Conit, Morehead State Public Radio (MSPR) general manager, said WKMY, the network's base station, is broadcasting at an extremely low power and the network's translator in Iowa is not operational at all. The network's other station, located in Booneville, has returned to the air at full power, serving all parts of 12 counties in Southeast Kentucky.

Conit said ice covered the broadcast tower WKMY shares with Kentucky Educational Television near Morehead, doubling the radio

antenna.

Rather than operating at its authorized 50,000 watts of power, WKMY is currently operating at 40 watts allowing it to only serve the MSU campus and part of the Morehead community.

The ice storm initially knocked MSPR off the air early Feb. 16 due to the loss of electricity. A backup generator restored electricity to the station and operated the transmitter for 10 hours before running out of fuel.

The fuel tank could not be refilled for nearly one day due to fallen trees blocking the road leading to the site of the transmitter. Once the road was cleared of debris, large pieces of ice had fallen onto the roof of the MSPR transmitter building from the KET

tower. The roof was crushed, damaging some of the equipment inside. The extent of the damage has not yet been determined.

"In an MSU press release Conit said, 'We regret that this unfortunate event makes it impossible for us to serve the majority of our listeners,' Conit said. 'Everything that can be done is being done to get us back on the air at full power as soon as possible. We appreciate the patience and understanding of those who value the services of Morehead State Public Radio.'

Normally, MSPR's three transmitter extend to 35 counties in the eastern half of Kentucky and bordering counties in West Virginia and Ohio.

CELL | Bill would prevent phone use while driving

From Front Page

times — you need to be prepared for anything," she said.

Biology major Jason Pfeiffer said, "I think it's a good idea because a lot of people are having wrecks while talking on their cell phones."

Music Education major Jonathan Francis said talking on the phone while driving is a distraction.

"I think the bill is a good idea," he said. Francis says he tries not to use his cell phone when he's driving.

A spokeswoman for Radio Shack in Morehead, which carries Cingular Wireless service, said she agrees with the proposed bill.

"As a matter of fact, we [at Radio Shack] tell the customers that it's safer — they would be better off buying a hands-free device."

She said the cost of a hands-free device depends on what type the consumer wants and what type of phone the consumer has.

According to the AAA Bluegrass

Kentucky website, "hands-free phones don't risk-free. The hands-free feature is simply a convenience. It does not increase safety."

Studies show that hands-free cellular phones distract drivers the same as hand-held phones because it is the conversation that distracts the driver, not the device, according to the website.

The bill, which could take effect this summer, is now in the Transportation committee.

GAS | Prices keeping students from traveling home

From Front Page

Stamper says about 70 percent of Cingo's customers are MSU students.

Kristy Carter says she used to go home to Louisville every other weekend. Now she can only afford to go home once every couple of months.

"After filling up in Morehead for \$1.63 per gallon [for regular unleaded], I saw gas prices as low as \$1.58 a gallon at home," Carter says.

AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report for Feb. 21, reported that Kentucky's average price for regular unleaded was \$1.60 per gallon. Just a month ago the average price was \$1.428. Last year on Feb. 21 it was \$1.075.

Some students said they think the high gas prices are because of the potential war with Iraq. Others said they think it's just "conspiracy between oil companies and gas station owners to inflate prices to make a larger profit."

According to a news release from The Associated Press, the high gas prices could be due to a strike in Nigeria oil-export terminals. The strike, which was initiated because of pay and working conditions, along with the possible war against Iraq, and a strike in Venezuela, have brought oil prices near two-year highs.

Nigeria produces more than 2 million barrels of oil a day as the world's sixth-largest exporter of crude oil, and from which gasoline is made. Half of its exports go to the United States, according to the AP.

According to the American Petroleum Institute's January 2003 Statistical Report, crude oil prices rose as much as 70 percent higher than a year ago during January and by the second week in February they went past \$26 a barrel, the highest they have been in more than 2 years.

The Institute also reported that the nine-cent rise in prices in January could have been due to rising worldwide crude oil prices due to weaker strikes in Venezuela and commodity markets' uncertainties of future Middle East supplies.

The online source, <http://www.fuelconomy.gov> offers suggestions for saving money on gas. These include avoiding excessive idling, using cruise control when traveling long distances, and keeping engines tuned and tires properly inflated.



Phonically Emily Loring

Gas prices throughout the United States have steadily increased over the last few months. Many students hypothesize these prices are affected by the impending war against Iraq.

Police Report February 6 to February 27, 2003

DATE	NAME	AGE	ADDRESS	CHARGE
02-05-03	Dardy, Tiffany	18	Cincinnati, Ohio	Arrested on a warrant for theft by deception
02-06-03	Dyer, Missy	19	Vansburg, Ky.	Cited for disregarding a stop sign
02-06-03	Taylor, Brandon	20	Cincinnati, Ohio	Cited for disregarding a stop sign
02-09-03	Dickerson, Landon	20	Salt Lick, Ky.	Cited for possession of marijuana
02-11-03	Conely, Nicholas	19	Louisville, Ky.	Arrested for driving with suspended license
02-14-03	Hicks, Jeremy M.	26	Morehead, Ky.	Arrested for alcohol intoxication
02-20-03	Parker, Joshua A.	20	Dayton, Ky.	Arrested for alcohol intoxication
02-20-03	Munchy, H. Charles	26	Morehead, Ky.	Arrested for alcohol intoxication
02-20-03	Adams, Adam	20	Morehead, Ky.	Cited for disregarding a stop sign
02-20-03	Davis, Michael	23	Alexandria, Ohio	Cited for possession of marijuana
02-24-03	May, Brian N.	20	Dayton, Ky.	Cited for possession of marijuana
02-24-03	Siltner, William	22	Steele, Ky.	Arrested for possession of marijuana
02-25-03	Fugate, Gregory	19	Jackson, Ky.	Arrested for possession of marijuana
02-25-03	Cipps, Samuel	20	Jackson, Ky.	Arrested for possession of marijuana
02-25-03	Skidmore, Derek	18	Wilmington, Ohio	Arrested for possession of marijuana
02-25-03	Boyd, Brian N.	18	Weymouth, Ohio	Arrested for possession of marijuana
02-25-03	Bonds, Lindsey	18	Westchester, Ohio	Cited for possession of marijuana

WEATHER | Downed trees, icy roads posed dangers

From Front Page

Lockett said, "It's not our responsibility to contact people. They [MSU] should contact us."

MSU President Ronald G. Eaglin admitted the decision to have regularly scheduled classes on Tuesday and on other days earlier in the semester has been misjudged by the office of the provost and Public Safety.

Eaglin said, "That particular timing [the Public Safety] were told that the main highways were clear, that there was some icing on secondary roads but that they looked for improvement. He [Moore] made the decision not to close the institution and then the weather deteriorated. By that time it was too late."

Many commuters and on-campus students who were unable to make the journey back to MSU from their weekend break up they think MSU administrators showed a lack of concern for the safety and lives of students and employees.

SCA Vice President of Public Relations Gene Boyle said, "I was really surprised when MSU had classes when Kentucky was closed in a state of emergency."

Boyle said, "I think that they shouldn't only rely on campus conditions. Safety should be their number one concern."

Senior history major and an on-campus resident Melissa Graves

said, "The decision to have classes on Tuesday showed that the administration had a lack of concern for students' safety."

Junior Business major and Commuter Jessica Hill said, "MSU officials should put the lives of students before a day of classes. Education is significant in my life but my life is more significant."

Also a commuter, Junior Lesley Bragg said, "I have missed five days due to weather problems. I figured after the death of a faculty member at the Prestonsburg branch last semester that they would wake up."

Students are not the only people upset. Several faculty and staff, including some who live in Morehead, were unable to make it to campus.

Sue Buchanan, administrative secretary to the director of Bricarities, said, "I missed two days of work because of the ice. I have to drive down a huge hill that isn't always taken care of."

Buchanan said she knew of other faculty and staff who had trouble getting to campus. She also had trouble getting to campus.

Associate Professor of Art Stephen J. Tyrone said when MSU remains open, the terrain in the surrounding region is still difficult.

Tyrone said, "For me safety is more important."

Freshman Tammy Walters, an on-campus student, said she wanted to

know what the policy was for canceling classes and that MSU should post the policy during winter months.

Walters said, "Do we have to wait until people die in wrecks before they close school?"

Those commuting to MSU have faced a multitude of weather-related issues in recent weeks.

Many students and employees travel great distances. Others have children whose county schools are closed. The additional problems of having no electricity for several days, no hot water, and for some, no heat, made riding the trips to campus even more unreasonable.

Walters said, "If you don't have water or electricity—necessities of life—the last thing you want to do is go to school."

Although Vice President Moore and President Eaglin said that students should use their own judgment about traveling to MSU, many students said they are concerned they will be penalized for class absences.

Junior Journalism major and commuter Lori Conley said, "One professor's policy is that he only excuses you from his class if you can prove you were hospitalized or you are dead."

Other students said they worry about falling behind in their class work if they miss because of weather.



Photos by Greg Davidson

Damage from last week's ice storm was extensive. This tree limb fell over a power line located near the Theta Chi Fraternity house.

The Trail Blazer

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EDITORIAL

Administrators' decisions place students in danger

Last week's storm paralyzed Eastern Kentucky. Power lines were knocked out, fallen trees blocked roadways, and icy or water-covered roadways held families hostage in their homes.

Like other state universities, MSU canceled classes on Monday due to treacherous roadways and the lack of electricity in local areas. However, unlike other universities, MSU administrators chose to proceed on a regular class schedule on Tuesday.

More than half of Rowan County still remained without electricity and the roadways were still hazardous, contributing to numerous car accidents and the inability of many faculty, staff and students to make it to campus.

Many of those who did risk life and limb traveling to campus got here only to find their classes canceled because numerous faculty and staff members could not make it to campus because of the treacherous conditions.

Do administrators care if MSU students, faculty and staff risk their lives driving on dangerous, icy roads?

For those students, faculty and staff members without telephone or electrical service, there was no way of knowing whether classes were canceled or not. And, for those who did receive word, the next step was to either risk their lives by tackling treacherous roadways or risking their jobs and/or grades by missing classes or office work.

Meteorologists are forecasting another threatening ice storm, potentially as bad as the first, expected to pass through Kentucky in the next two days. If history is any indication, this storm will knock down trees, power lines and phone lines and will make traveling deadly.

Will MSU administrators again fail to show consideration for the safety of the campus community? Or will they take a cue from other universities and put the lives of students and workers first.

M.W.

Consider This . . .

"Today America's families declare, we will not be afraid, and we will be ready."

— Tom Ridge, Secretary of Homeland Security, announcing a \$1.2 million "ready campaign" to give citizens easy access to information during a crisis

"There was somebody dead on top of me. I survived because I started praying."

— Margha Hedman, clubgoer caught in a stampede in a Chicago nightclub that erupted after security guards used pepper spray to break up a fist fight, resulting in 21 deaths

Letters to the Editor

Student says school spirit isn't bought

The game against ECU [Feb. 25] and the support was absolutely awesome! For three years, I have heard the same thing over and over, "Morehead has no school spirit." Are you serious? For three years now I, the Blue Man, have been the President of the Eagle M.A.F.I.A. and have seen drastic changes in the fan support.

In fact, if I may, quote a *Trail Blazer* from two years ago, "Maybe students have finally shed their robes of apathy and realized MSU has a lot of talented athletes who deserve support. But how long will this surge of fan support continue?"

A big dose of school spirit is just what the doctor ordered for MSU. Although the spirit has changed in the past three years, there are still concerns. MSU's athletic department sponsors "Spirit Night" and "Couch Potato Night," in which the most spirited group at the sporting events chosen for these nights wins prizes.

Why does an organization or

group need bribery to show school spirit? School spirit isn't just a one-time thing. So why do we give prizes to other organizations for a one-time showing? Why can't these groups show this "school spirit" all the time?

Exactly what is school spirit? Well someone asked me once, if I were sliced open would I bleed blue and gold? Yeah, probably! I must admit that I love this school and the sports teams that we have.

I love the fact that students in the Eagle M.A.F.I.A. will spend 25 cents more on a pencil just because it says MSU on it. That's what school spirit's about - it's the subtle

and ger and killing is wrong, but now I've got it all figured out.

Every time we have taken action against Iraq it has been during a time when the "system" has broken down, be it inspections, world, congress, or any other peaceful forms of diplomacy.

Our first brawl with Iraq, 1991's famous Operation Desert Storm, was fought, ignoring other possibly dubious reasons, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. This violated historical precedent and international law.

The next tussle with Iraq was Desert Storm's less popular sequel Operation Desert Fox, ordered by a Monicagate-mired Bill Clinton in

games, AND WE SHOULDN'T BE ALONE!!!

Jeremy Bosher
Eagle M.A.F.I.A. President

MSU activist encourages participation

There are lots of college students who believe a war with Iraq is unjust. So Morehead students have created a peace group in order

to exercise our right to voice our opposition to Bush's rush to war. This group is planning lots of events. On Thursday, Feb. 27, we will be meeting at the Bell Tower at 5 p.m. for a peaceful rally and demonstration. If you agree that a U.S. invasion of Iraq is dangerous and unwise, please come and join us at the vigil. We are an open group and look forward to your participation. If you have any questions or suggestions email us at MSUPeaceCoalition@yahoo.com or sean_schnabel@hotmail.com.

Holly Haywood
MSU Peace Coalition

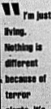
What's on MSU's mind? How are you living differently since America's high terror alert?

VOICE YOUR OPINION

The *Trail Blazer* welcomes reader responses and opinions to its Letters column. Letters should be 400 words or less, signed, and include the writer's address and phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in *The Trail Blazer* office (Room 317, Breckinridge Hall) or emailed to letters@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication. Letters are printed as received. *The Trail Blazer* reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.



Thelma Prysock
Columbus, Ohio
Freshman Biology



Heath Hallett
Englewood, Ohio
Sophomore GIS



James Clements
Shelbyville, Ky.
Freshman Geology



Jennifer Bennett
Crittenden, Ky.
Junior Theatre



Tonya Trivett
Inez, Ky.
Senior Psychology



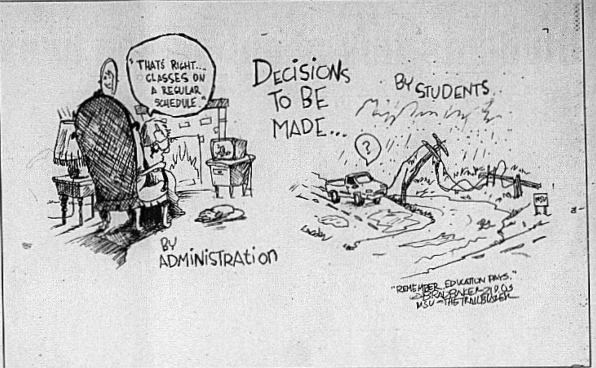
Tonya Trivett
Inez, Ky.
Senior Psychology



Tonya Trivett
Inez, Ky.
Senior Psychology



Tonya Trivett
Inez, Ky.
Senior Psychology



Commentary

Cell phone regulations are overdue

BY ABIGAIL D. MALIK
MANAGING EDITOR

A law that makes illegal the use of a cellular phone while operating a vehicle is a step in the right direction toward the safety of everyone on Kentucky's roads.

According to the National Safety Council, those engaged in cell phone conversations: — Missed twice as many simulated traffic signals as when they were not talking on the cell phone, and

— Took longer to react to those signals that they did detect. These deficits were equivalent for both hand-held and hands-free cell phone users.

If legislators pass House Bill 83, we will be following in the footsteps of New York, the only state thus far to create any laws

regulating driving and cell phone use.

House Bill 83 says that any driver on Kentucky roads may only use a cell phone if they use a hands-free device while operating the phone.

It's about time our government paid attention to the potentially fatal combination of operating a vehicle and operating a phone. However, it will be more beneficial to drivers if legislators take the ban a step further and completely make illegal the use of cell phones while driving and make it legal only to use a cell phone in a vehicle if you are a passenger or if the vehicle is not moving.

In most cases the danger in using a cell phone while driving isn't the actual holding of the cell

phone. Although it is safer to keep both hands on the steering wheel, many people drive with one hand regardless and are fine.

It is the actual conversation that makes the situation so hazardous. When you are talking with someone - whether it is someone in the back seat or on the phone - your attention is split between the conversation and road. A driver's concentration should always be 100 percent focused on the road and traffic.

Should we then outlaw drivers from talking to passengers while operating a vehicle? Of course not. That would be ridiculous and impossible.

A ban on using cell phones while driving, however, would be part of a solution to increase safety

and decrease accidents on the roads.

There are so many factors that can distract a driver from the road - loud children in the back seat, music blaring from speakers, other drivers, and talking on a cell phone.

While you can't regulate most factors, cell phones can and should be. Some claim banning cell phones while driving would be an infringement on our rights as free Americans.

But this proposed law would be no more an infringement than being forced to buckle up, or being required to use a turn signal. - All laws that were enacted in the name of safety for all.

Abigail D. Malik can be reached at apm101@trailblazeronline.net.

Military force not necessary yet

BY ROBERT J. BANTA
STAFF WRITER

Though it has taken me some time, I have finally formulated a logical explanation for my opposition to another potential war with Iraq. For some time I was satisfied with merely saying I was against the war because Bush is a warmon-

ger and killing is wrong, but now I've got it all figured out. Every time we have taken action against Iraq it has been during a time when the "system" has broken down, be it inspections, world, congress, or any other peaceful forms of diplomacy.

Our first brawl with Iraq, 1991's

famous Operation Desert Storm, was fought, ignoring other possibly dubious reasons, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. This violated historical precedent and international law.

The next tussle with Iraq was Desert Storm's less popular sequel Operation Desert Fox, ordered by a Monicagate-mired Bill Clinton in

1998. The operation consisted mainly of long-range cruise missile strikes from U.S. battleships floating in the Persian Gulf. The strike was ordered after U.N. weapons inspectors were ordered out of the country by Saddam Hussein and

See MILITARY - Page 6

Students talk about spring break preparations

BY SARA JEAN CASTLE
STAFF WRITER

Spring break is well over a month away but MSU students are excitedly getting ready for their week-long escapes.

Senior Jeremy Ruckel says he plans to go to Panama Beach and "have a shopping good time with friends."

"To prepare for the trip I am laying on the couch and watching TV to tone my muscles, and I will get a tan from my light bulbs," he says.

Ruckel isn't the only one planning to spend spring break at Panama Beach.

Senior Justin Caudill says he is going to the popular Florida spot with friends.

"I am trying to save up some money," Caudill says.

Many students like Caudill are saving money to help pay for spring break expenses.

"I'm going to Florida with friends," Junior Michelle Mullins says. "And I am saving up money so that I can go."

Senior Steven Jacobs has also been watching his spending.

"I would like to go to Myrtle Beach and play some golf," he says.

Senior Clay Stone received his spring break vacation for his birthday.

"Since spring break is a week

after my birthday, my fiancé and her parents are sending me to a golf and yacht resort on the coast of North Carolina," he says.

One student is getting a free vacation this spring break. "I will be going to Daytona Beach for free with the MSU tennis

team," Junior Alejandro Hernandez says. "We will compete in four matches and have three days to go home."

Not only are students pinching pennies to prepare for their vacations, but also for some, getting back into good shape is just as important as having money to spend.

"I would like to go to Gatlinburg, Tenn., with my girlfriend, so I have been trying to save enough money up to go, and I have been working out in the gym," Junior Sam Johnson says.

Senior Aaron Kirker is going to Cocoa Beach, Fla., with his girlfriend.

Kirker says, "We have been going to the Wellness Center, the tanning bed, and our parents gave us a little money to help us out."

Like Kirker and his girlfriend, who want that golden tan before they hit the beach, visiting the tanning bed seems to be another important few for students.

"I am going to the Bahamas with twenty other friends," Senior Miranda Elliot says. "I have been watching how much money I spend, going to the tanning bed, and watching what I eat."

Freshman Sarah Grooms says, "I'm going on a road trip with four other friends to anywhere the road takes us, so I will be visiting the tanning bed and saving up money."

While many students are prepping to make long trips, there are those students who plan to stay around Kentucky to enjoy their time off this spring break.

Julie and Jenny Hamilton, both freshmen, are considering getting some friends together to go to King's Island for a day.

"We plan to stay-home and relax most of the time," they say.

Sophomore Kianna Robinson says, "I plan to work at MSU's radio station during the break and relax at home."

For students who have to stay home and work, spring break may not really seem to be a "break."

"I was going to go to New Orleans," Sophomore Amanda Warren says. "But I couldn't save up enough money so I guess I will just stay home and work."

Senior Laura Sullivan says, "I am going to find a summer job, and this will be the first spring-break I have had to go home."

For sophomore Brittany Damon it might seem like she is still at school during her spring break.

"I have to do my observation for my education class at Jackson Row Elementary and East Ridge High School," she says.

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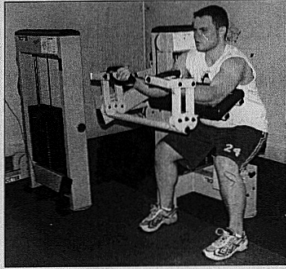


Photo by Sara Castle

Colby Owens, a university studies major, is buffing up at the Wellness Center before the break begins.

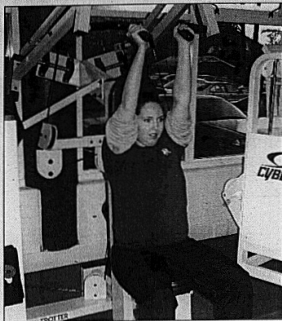


Photo by Sara Castle

Theater major Jennifer Bennett works out to prepare herself for the upcoming spring break. The week long break begins March 24.

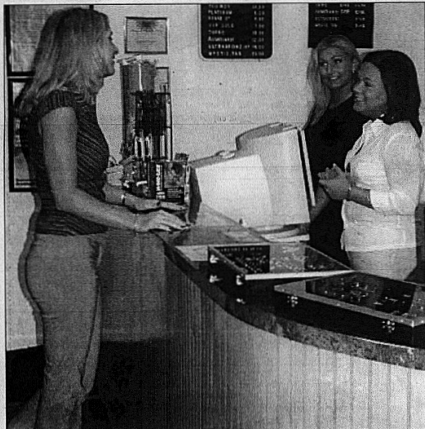
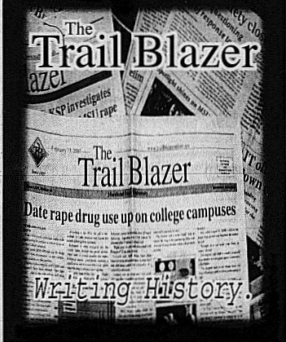


Photo by Sara Castle

Students flock to tanning facilities before spring break. According to an article in the *Arizona Daily Wildcat* a base tan is the building up of the skin's melanin, or pigment, through multiple exposure to ultraviolet-B rays via tanning beds.

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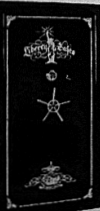
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Around Campus Director of Kentucky Folk Art Center named

Matt D. Collinsworth of Morehead has been named director of MSU's Kentucky Folk Art Center.

Collinsworth, who will assume his new duties on March 10, has selected in a national search. He is a familiar face to the MSU campus, having served as an adjunct instructor in writing courses since 1998 and as executive director of Morehead Tomorrow for the past two years.

Collinsworth received a Bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ohio State University.

Fall Dean's List welcomes record number of athletes

Sixty-Seven MSU student-athletes were recognized on the MSU Dean's List for the Fall 2002 semester, the highest fall number in recent history.

The 67 student-athletes bettered last fall's total of 54 and was the highest number of 67 individuals were honored in the Spring, 2000 term. In order to qualify for Dean's List honors, an undergraduate must have taken at least 12 hours and have earned a 3.5 grade point average for the current semester.

Leading the way with the highest total of honorees was softball with 11, more than doubling last fall's total. Men's cross country and track and field followed with eight, while women's basketball and women's volleyball each had seven.

IET program granted 6-year reaccreditation

Morehead State University's Industrial Technology program has been approved for the maximum allowed term, six years, by its accrediting agency.

The National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) issued its letter for the program Dec. 6, granting reaccreditation status through Nov. 1, 2008. The decision was based on NAIT's site visit to the Department of Industrial Education and Technology in April, according to Dr. Ahmad Zargari, department chair.

MSU's industrial education and technology department currently offers four technology options for baccalaureate degree students: construction/mining, electrical/electronics, computer-aided graphic design (formerly graphic communications technology) and manufacturing/robotics. Completing MSU's degree requirements in this career area, rather than at other institutions, saves students a big step once they have finished their studies, according to Dr. Zargari.

BY BETHANIE LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

It might be difficult for a lot of college students to recall childhood memories, but for Kristen Cox it is impossible.

At the age of 15, a car traveling 45 mph hit Cox while she was crossing the road.

"It was the worst thing that has ever happened to me, but it has made me a more emotionally strong person," Cox says.

On Aug. 7, 1997, Cox left soccer practice and headed down Highway 17 to a local convenient store in Independence, Ky.

The last thing Cox remembers is stepping onto the road and thinking it was clear for her to cross.

The car that struck her did not see her until she had flown about 25 feet into oncoming traffic.

Cox obtained lost outward physical injuries - only bruises and road rash. But the memory section of her brain had been injured.

Immediately after the accident she could remember some things like her name and phone number, but the faces of her friends and family were faces of strangers.

Cox says she was the first per-

son at the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, to be released after less than 24 hours, after obtaining as much head trauma as she did.

A week after the accident, Cox was able to run and get ready for the upcoming soccer season.

"It was like I got to start over my freshman year of high school," Cox says.

Cox's doctors said she had a concussion and her memory would never come back. They said she would definitely act like a different person.

On the way home from the hospital, Cox says she knew the people with her had to be her parents and she knew they were taking her home.

Once she got home, though, she did not recognize anything.

MSU junior Danielle Finck, one of Cox's friends, says she was acquainted with her before the accident, says they have been friends for eleven years and it is very annoying that Cox cannot remember certain memories from their childhood.

Finck says Cox's personality did a complete 360-degree change after the accident. She says Cox would



Photo by Bethany Lewis

Cox studying in her dorm room. Cox says she has overcome odds to be able to attend college.

pretend that she was the same person but really she wasn't at all.

"Now, she has no patience and does not act nearly as childish," Finck says. "She even dresses different. She went from dark colors to pastel."

Cox says her fundamental skills came back easily but it was very frustrating not knowing who her

friends were.

Her mother insisted on keeping her out of the hospital's forced learning program and teaching Cox herself in her own home.

Cox says she threw books and cursed out of frustration.

"Thank God for my mom, she has done so much for me. She has put up with me for five years now,"

Cox says.

After her accident, doctors ran tests on her degree of physical fitness to prove the more fit a person is the better chance they have of surviving an accident like Cox's.

Cox loves to tell her story to others and wants to visit with children who have similar disabilities.

"If I can do it, they can get through it," she says.

Cox, a sociology major, transferred to MSU last semester from Georgetown College.

She came to MSU to join the women's soccer team and further her education.

Since coming here, Cox's body has suffered post trauma from the accident and has prevented her from continuing with sports.

Her grades have improved dramatically since coming to MSU and she is able to work out almost every other day.

Cox is very involved with social change and protest around MSU's campus. She says coming from another school it is easy for her to notice things here that could make this campus a safer and better environment.

African American literature course being taught

BY MORGAN BATTRELL
STAFF WRITER

English students in MSU's African-American Literature class are exposing themselves to many different aspects of black culture.

Dr. Layne Nepper, associate professor of English, teaches the class.

Nepper says the class is designed to provide an introductory overview of African-American literature produced from earliest artifacts to the late 20th and early 21st century.

Nepper introduces the study of African-American literature by having students listen to African-American folk, spiritual, gospel, blues, and rap music.

Authors studied in the class



Fredrick Douglas

include Fredrick Douglas, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Ralph Ellison.

Nepper says difficult topics are part of the class and imperative to

discussion.

He says, "Topics discussed are, of course, the problems of racism, past and present, the way things change in terms of racism and some ways it's persisted; also the correlation between race and sexism stereotyping."

Nepper says his students respond well to the more serious topics such as how the African-American literature genre was formed and why some authors are excluded from American literature.

His students respond positively to the class and discussion of the topics, Nepper says.

"At first there's some hesitancy and awkwardness, but over the course of the term, my experience has been students have formed ways to talk about these issues, fair and, intellectually minded," he says.

Rachael Ingram, a senior English and government major, says she wanted to take the class to learn as much about African-American history and literature as possible.

She says the class helps her take action to decrease stereotypes by knowing what they are.

She says, "If society is to progress, people need to study the past to make sure it never happens again."

She says this is her third class dealing with African-American literature.

"My interest sparked in English 341, Literature of the South, and I wanted to learn as much as I could about the history, struggles and tri-

umphs of the African-American culture," Ingram says.

Ingram says the university should offer more cultural classes, and not just those centered on



Toni Morrison

African-American culture.

She says, "If you don't expose yourself you are shutting off a different world, knowledge, and appreciation."

Sophomore theater major Nyeshia West, the only African-American student in the class of 22, says she took the class to learn more about her culture and to study other students.

West says she wanted to watch other people in the class who probably didn't know much about African-American culture and watch them as they experienced it.

Nepper relates race issues discussed in class to the treatment of minorities on campus, she says.

West says the discussion is important for all minorities living on campus, not just African-American.

She says she values this discussion because things like difficulties in getting hair and skin products and food which are a part of her culture.

She says she enjoys the class because, as the only black student, she has a lot of input about the literature and issues studied.

West says she likes talking about these issues and offering new views while receiving other students' views.

West encourages all students, to take a cultural class and would like to see more of them at MSU.

"These are the people (minorities) that you are going to deal with in the future. It is better to wake up to the reality of it now," West says.

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Blues musicians return to MSU

Internationally acclaimed Piedmont blues stylist John Cephas and Phil Wiggins will return to MSU next week as part of the "Americana Crossroads Live" concert series.

Cephas and Wiggins will speak about their own personal and individual experiences in dealing with civil rights on Wednesday.

On Thursday they will demonstrate and share the techniques of the Piedmont blues style. Their third and final appearance will be on Friday at 7:30 p.m. as part of "Americana Crossroads Live" in Duncan Recital Hall.

The Wednesday and Thursday events will be held in 111 Claydon-Young Art Building at 7 p.m. The events are sponsored by the MSU Office of Multicultural Student Services, Kentucky Center for Traditional Music and the Blunkle Endowment for the Caudill College of Humanities.

The duo visited the MSU campus last fall, where their performance was well received by the MSU community and local high school students.

Additional information can be attained by calling the KCTM at (606) 783-9001.

MSU professor co-authors book

Dr. Richard Miles, director of bands, recently published "Teaching Music through Performance in Band: Volume IV." Miles co-authored and edited the textbook on instrumental music that will be used by more than 300 universities in 21 countries.

The complete "Teaching Music" series contains a total of six volumes and 20 CDs.

Additional information is available by calling Dr. Miles at (606) 783-2485.

MSU Folk Art Center names new director

Matt D. Collinsworth has been named director of Morehead State University's Kentucky Folk Art Center (KFAC). Collinsworth will begin as director on March 10.

Collinsworth, of Morehead, was selected in a national search. He has served as an assistant instructor in writing courses since 1998 and as an executive director of Morehead Tomorrow for the past two years.

For more information contact the KFAC at (606) 783-2204.

A&E writers can be reached by email at arts@trailblazeronline.net

Old School delivers nothing new to cinema

BY TIM KEARNS

Iowa State U.

U-Wire

AMES, IOWA — Reviewing a movie like "Old School" is like voting in an Iraqi election — some movies are excellent, some movies are terrible and some movies just are.

Into the third category falls "Old School," a movie that is almost pointless to review, since good reviews don't matter to its target audience and bad ones just convince them that the reviewer is on the wrong side of the age of 30.

"Old School" really is pointless to review. While the picture is shown at movie theaters and printed on film, it never really adds up to a movie — rather a relatively meaningless series of scenes that may or may not have a common theme.

The good news to the people who want to hear it is that the scenes are occasionally funny, although in at least one case unnecessarily offend-

sive, but usually innocuous to anyone who's sat through "Road Trip" or its ilk.

The plot, which is to suggest erroneously that the movie really feels it requires one, is about Mitch Martin (Luke Wilson) returning home to discover that his girlfriend is involved in an orgy, and his friends Frank (Will Ferrell) and Bernard (Vince Vaughn) consoling him by throwing a party at his new house.

By some "plot" twist, the house is annexed by the university, and in order for Mitch to keep his house, he has to create a fraternity. The fraternity consists of a few students of varying races, creeds and obesity levels, and also an 89-year-old man who will, of course, die in a pool of jelly lubricant with two topless coeds who look to be about 30.

The problem with "Old School," even when approached on its own terms, is that it is simply too conventional.

Rather than have the characters behave like themselves, they end up admitting that maybe cheating on their wife isn't the right thing to do. People like this would, in reality, not worry that the cheating was bad, but that cheating with four girls at once might be the problem.

As a whole, the scenes that give the film its plot are the worst, ranging from Luke Wilson's attempt to craft a genuine relationship with his high school crush to scenes with Jeremy Piven playing way against type as a creepy university dean.

The supporting cast, particularly Craig Kilborn and Juliette Lewis, is absolutely dreadful, but the beauty of a film like "Old School" is that supporting characters are so unimportant and utterly interchangeable that their performances really don't detract.

The other disappointment in "Old School," besides some surprisingly prolonged nude scenes with Will

Ferrell, is how the comedian is used so ineffectively throughout much of the film. Rather than being himself for most of the movie, Ferrell plays the part that would normally be played by Ben Stiller. It isn't until the last few scenes that his comedic skills are finally harnessed, bringing back memories of his best work on "Saturday Night Live." Vince Vaughn, on the other hand, is in his standard form, and gives the film its biggest laughs.

While many critics have harped on "Old School" for trying to be "National Lampoon's Animal House," the criticisms are pointless and relatively groundless. To suggest that "Animal House" owns some bizarre film monopoly on the ideas of drunkenness and promiscuity only serves to point out that some things are always funny to people who enjoy drunkenness and promiscuity.

Frankly, I have always found

"Animal House" dreadfully disappointing, but if only due to my low expectations, was actually impressed by "Old School." The premise isn't original or clever, but on its own level, it works.

There's no question "Old School" is stupid (but if its viewers didn't catch on to that already, they probably are fools). But it's a movie that doesn't try to pretend.

Above all, the movie is funny when it stops trying so hard to be funny. If you're one of those people who plans to see it anyway, odds are, you'll enjoy it, and for a movie like this, that's all that counts. In a year when Oscar nominees are nothing more than retraced — adaptations of Tolkein, a multi-tiered update of Virginia Woolf stories and another made-for-the-Academy Holocaust film — what can you expect from "Old School"?

Highlights of the 45th Annual Grammys



Photo courtesy of www.grammy.com
Norah Jones performs at the 45th Annual Grammy awards show.



Photo courtesy of www.grammy.com
No Doubt poses with their only award of the night.



Photo courtesy of www.grammy.com
India.Arie presents her acceptance speech.

Best Female Pop Performance

Don't Know Why
Norah Jones

Best Pop Group Performance

Hey Baby
No Doubt

Best Male Pop Performance

Your Body Is a Wonderland
John Mayer

Best Female Rock Vocal Performance

Steve McQueen
Sheryl Crow

Album of the Year

Come Away With Me
Norah Jones

Record of the Year

Don't Know Why
Norah Jones

Best Pop Vocal Album

Don't Know Why
Norah Jones

Best New Artist

Norah Jones

Best Male Country Vocal Performance

Give My Love To Rose
Johnny Cash

Best Female Country Vocal Performance

Cry
Faith Hill

Best Hard Rock Performance

All My Life
Foo Fighters

Best Alternative Music Album

A Rush of Blood to the Head
Coldplay

Best Rap Album

The Eminem Show
Eminem

Best Rock Gospel Album

Come Together
Third Day

Best Rock Album

The Rising
Bruce Springsteen

Best Country Album

Home
Dixie Chicks

MILITARY | Many will die if we go to war

From Page 3

numerous violations of sanctions and regulations imposed by a United Nations coalition.

Ignoring any kind of right and wrong morality, at least these two acts were seemingly justified. But now, as this government bullheadedly trumpets for war, there is no country invaded by Iraq and there are no U.N. inspectors ejected by Hussein's regime.

The inspectors are there doing their job. They have said they need more time to complete their search. Because I have not been in Iraq for the last few months looking for U.N. resolution violations I have to take the word of the people whose job it is to look for these violations. For now, any kind of attack against Iraq, even when compared

to this country's own precedent set by Operations Desert Storm and Desert Fox, would be preemptive and unprovoked.

All that said, the fact still remains that Saddam Hussein is a horrible dictator doing horrible things to his own people, which pains me deeply. But let us not forget there are dozens of horrible dictators out there doing horrible things to their own people, including Libya's Omar Kadafi and North Korea's Kim Jong Il.

And let history not forget or ignore that Saddam Hussein is a dictator who had the support of the United States of America for a long time. This country supported Hussein when he seized power in a bloody fury in the late '70s and this country supported him as recently as the early '80s when Iraq invaded

Iraq, our whipping boy at the time. Though I have a difficult time saying there is such a thing as a justified war, I will go so far as to say there is such a thing as justified use of military force. This ain't it.

Whether you buy any of this or not, keep one thing in mind — when we go at it with Iraq, which at this point may be inevitable, people will die. Lots of them. Iraqi soldiers. American soldiers. Iraqi civilians and quite possibly American civilians.

Peace Over Alles.
Robert J. Banta can be reached at opinion@trailblazeronline.net

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Eagles lack national respect

BY BROOKS REXROD
SPORTS
COLUMBIST

Each year in late February the nation's most revered basketball analysts begin predicting the upcoming NCAA tournament field. Speculation centers around teams appearing to be in and out of post-season play, and the seeds they will be handed on the early named Selection Sunday.

For the first time in recent history, the MSU men's team finds itself within the realm of such speculation. With just one game left, the Eagles sit atop OVC standings and are the predicted holders of the conference's automatic NCAA tournament berth.

While it is refreshing to see the team getting some much deserved publicity, including a brief comment by ESPN guru Dick Vitale during a nationally televised Feb. 15 Louisville-Marquette game, it's disappointing to see such low seed predictions for the team. Some forecasts even predict second-place Austin Peay will gain the OVC position, granted to the winner of the conference tournament.

Though the Eagles have clinched first place from the beginning of conference play, national media still refuse to respect an outstanding squad that has given tough contests to national powers Ohio State, Arizona State and Alabama (then ranked number 1 nationally).

A few losses to average teams have hurt Morehead's credibility, and a schedule ranked number 272 in the nation doesn't help much, either. After all, not many tournament games are interesting in victories over Ashby, Kentucky Christian and Taylor. There is an overtime loss at Indiana-Purdue at Indianapolis, and you're bound to be a 16th seed in most predictors.

Still, this squad has had its best showing against top competition. A last second shot kept the Eagles from upsetting Arizona State in the season's first contest. Experts say ASU could be seeded as highly as 5th.

The Eagles also led Alabama's second half before falling victim to foul trouble.

Neither MSU or Peay win the OVC tournament, a 16th seed would be an insult. That shouldn't prove a problem, though, as tournament upsets have traditionally landed the bracket with teams claiming sub-par records.

This is where the Eagles will have an opportunity to move up in the seeding process, assuming they capture the conference crown.

With only a handful of clear-cut favorites this season, tournament predictions have become a jumbled mess. Traditionally powerful teams like Cincinnati, UCLA and North Carolina have faltered this year, with Louisville and Notre Dame coming into new prominence.

As the dust settles, the Eagles should do nothing but move up in their predicted seed, and a possible position on a favorable position come Selection Sunday.

If not, the team simply has an opportunity to keep playing its best against the nation's best.

Eagles clinch share of OVC title

Wins over Murray, UT-Martin clinch first title since 1984 season

BY BROOKS REXROD
SPORTS EDITOR

The Morehead State men's basketball team clinched at least a share of the conference title with a 77-74 win Saturday over Murray State.

A near sellout crowd of 6,136 filled Johnson Arena to watch the Eagles (19-7, 13-2) capture their first OVC crown since the 1983-84 season.

A win Saturday at second place Austin Peay would avoid a tie with Peay, which sits a game and a half behind the Eagles with two games to play.

Junior forward Ricky Minard's 32 point performance powered the team as it staved off a hungry Racers squad.

Murray tried its best to ruin senior night for the Eagles and the Racers led at late in the 3:33 mark. A Minard jumper put the Eagles up for good.

With the Eagles on top 69-68, a four point play by senior guard Chez Marks with 1:34 left put the game out of reach for the pesky Racers, clearing the way for the MSU squad and head coach Kyle Macy to cut down the nets after the final buzzer.

Free throws continued to play a huge role for the Eagles, as MSU netted 17 of 19 attempts in the contest.

Marks chipped in 17 points while Marquis Sykes led all players with six assists and three steals. Chris Shumate led five Racers with double-digit point totals.

Macy said he is proud of what his squad has accomplished this season.

season.

"I'm really happy for the guys. They've worked really hard to get to this point," Macy said. "It's been a long time, too long since we've claimed an OVC regular season championship."

Minard was named OVC player of the week for the second straight week following the performance. Senior Ike Lopez, who was honored in a pre-game senior ceremony along with Marks and guard Marquis Sykes, said he was happy to see Johnson Arena nearly filled.

"Last year when we began the season, I was very sad to see just a few people in the crowd," Lopez said. "But this year people have really been supporting the team. It's great to go out on the court and see people, and know you're doing something good for everybody to enjoy."

Minard said the seniors will be missed next year, but there is plenty left for this team to accomplish together.

"Man, that's going to hurt bad," Minard said of losing this year's senior class. "But right now, we've got them, so we're not going to dwell on that."

MSU 104, UTM 76

The Eagles continued their winning ways by rolling over Tennessee-Marion Feb. 20 in Johnson Arena.

Marks scored 26 points to lead five Eagles in double figures. Minard added 24 points.

The Lopez earned a double-double, contributing 13 points and

pulling down 11 rebounds for the Eagles as the game out-rebounded Martin 40-28 in the contest.

Eleven Eagles saw playing time in the lopsided game, and no Eagle played fewer than 33 minutes of action.

Morehead jumped out to a 41-32 halftime lead before pouring on 63 second half points to reach the century mark for the fifth time this season.

MSU 58, EKV 87

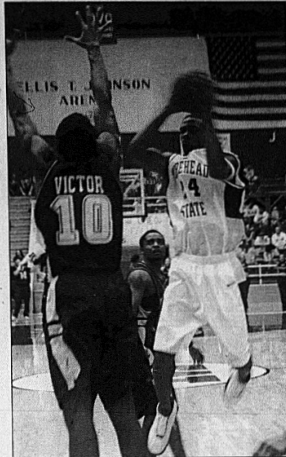
The Eagles made the collective hearts of 4,700 fans stop for 4.4 seconds Feb. 15 in Johnson Arena. That was the amount of time between Marquis Sykes' game-winning free throw and a missed buzzer-beating jump shot by

See OVC - Page 8

Men's Basketball

OVC Standings
(through games of Feb. 26)

	OVC	OVERALL
W-L	W-L	
Morehead State.....	13-2	19-7
Austin Peay.....	11-3	18-7
Tenn. Tech.....	9-5	16-11
Eastern Illinois.....	8-6	13-13
Murray State.....	7-7	14-11
Tenn. Martin.....	7-8	14-12
Eastern Ky.....	5-9	11-14
SEMO.....	4-10	10-17
Tenn. State.....	0-13	2-22



Forward Ricky Minard puts on a show for the 6,132 fans who flocked to Johnson Arena Saturday to watch the Eagles clinch an OVC championship. Minard had 32 points in the contest.

Lady Eagles sweep four game homestand

BY BROOKS REXROD -
SPORTS EDITOR

The first two possessions set the tone for the MSU women's basketball team Monday night as they overcame Tennessee-Marion 79-65.

The game opened with a wide open three-point by senior guard Tracee Turner, and the defense followed up by holding Martin to a shot clock violation on their first offensive trip.

Despite a few short offensive spurts by Martin, the Lady Eagles (16-10, 9-6) controlled nearly the entire game.

Morehead led the entire second half after UTM deadlocked the halftime score at 32.

The Lady Eagles are currently fourth in the OVC, and their four game winning streak has kept alive hopes of hosting a first round OVC Tournament game next Tuesday.

Forward Tasha Gates led Morehead with 21 points on the night, while Devonda Williams chipped in 20.

Coach Laura Luter said she was happy with the team's effort, especially in the second half.

Luter said, "I reminded them at halftime this is a team sport."

The team responded with a 47 second half points.

The game may prove key in the

race to finish in the top four and host a first round OVC tournament game. The Lady Eagles are currently one game ahead of Martin in conference standings, with one game remaining for each team.

Martin and MSU have split their two contests this season.

With only one game left before tournament play, forward La'Keta Wales said teamwork has contributed to recent success, and will be key as the season winds down.

"It's all about teamwork and it's what we're trying to do here," Wales said. "We made the goal together and we're trying to win the OVC (tournament) together."

MSU 81, MUR 73

Nearly 3,000 people saw the Lady Eagles guarantee their second straight winning season with a victory over Murray State Saturday in Johnson Arena.

Gates led the squad with 19 points while Kandl Brown. Despite the loss, Murray clinched a spot in the conference tournament, leaving Tennessee State and Eastern Illinois to battle for the eighth and final spot.

The Eagles won the game on the glass, out-rebounding the Lady Racers 43-27. Williams pulled

down nine to lead the team.

Twelve Lady Eagles saw playing time in the contest, including the six seniors honored for their careers during an emotional pre-game ceremony.

After the game, Luter praised the seniors for their dedication to the program.

"I'm really proud of all of them," Luter said. "They've

See OVC - Page 8

Women's Basketball

OVC Standings
(through games of Feb. 26)

	OVC	OVERALL
W-L	W-L	
Austin Peay.....	14-1	22-3
Eastern Ky.....	10-5	18-9
SEMO.....	9-5	15-10
Morehead State.....	9-6	16-10
Tenn. Martin.....	8-7	11-15
Tenn. Tech.....	5-9	10-15
Eastern Illinois.....	4-10	5-20
Murray State.....	4-11	8-18
Tenn. State.....	2-12	4-20

First round OVC basketball tournament tickets on sale

The Ohio Valley Conference Tournament will be played next week, Tuesday, March 4, and Friday-Saturday, March 7-8, and the Morehead State athletics ticket office announces the following ticket information.

The Eagle basketball team will host a first round game on Tuesday, March 4. The Lady Eagles could host a game that same evening or could begin the tournament on the road, depending on the results of games this weekend.

Advance tickets for the Tuesday game(s) in Johnson Arena will be on sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST

on Thursday at the ticket office in the Academic-Athletic Center and will continue at the same times on Friday, Monday and Tuesday.

Ticket prices are \$10 for reserved seat, \$8 for general admission and \$4 for MSU students. MSU students should check with the Student Government Association concerning the availability of complimentary student tickets.

If there is a single game, it will sell out at 7 p.m. If there is a doubleheader, the game times will be 5:30 p.m. for the women's game and 7:30 p.m. for the men's game.

Morehead State
Women's Basketball
(16-10, 9-6)

AP
VS.

APSU Records:
Women (14-0, 22-3)
Men (18-7, 11-3)

Saturday, March 1
Tipoff:
Women: 6:30 p.m.
Men: 8:30 p.m.

Late start time (Jan. 30):
Men: APSU def. MSU 66-59
Feb. 3:
Women: APSU def. MSU 76-83

Morehead State
Men's Basketball
(19-7, 11-2)

AP
VS.

First round OVC games at campus sites TBA

Men: Tuesday, March 4
Tipoff: TBA
Women: Tuesday March 4
Tipoff: TBA

See trailblazeronline.net for updated info, regarding game sites and times.

Athletics Schedule

Mar. 1	Women's Basketball @ Austin Peay*	8:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	Men's Basketball @ Austin Peay*	8:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	Baseball @ Birmingham Southern (D.H.)	2 p.m.
Mar. 1	Softball vs. Northern Kentucky	2 p.m.
Mar. 2	Baseball @ Birmingham Southern	2 p.m.
Mar. 4	Men's Basketball vs. TBA (OVC Tour.)	TBA
Mar. 4	Women's Basketball vs. TBA (OVC Tour.)	TBA
Mar. 4	Baseball vs. Dayton	2 p.m.
Mar. 5	Baseball vs. Youngstown St.	3 p.m.

Home games in bold

* Conference game

Winning shot



Guard Marquis Sykes, 11, gives the Eagles a present on his birthday as he sinks the winning shot in a Feb. 15 contest with Eastern Kentucky. Guard Chez Marks, 3, celebrates in the background.

Photo by Brooks Rexroat

EKU | Lady Eagles hit stride

From Page 7

brought the program to the level it's at now. They've been true leaders."

MSU 86, EKU80

The Lady Eagles bobbled a 23 point lead but still held off second place Eastern Kentucky Feb. 17. The upset gave new life to a struggling squad and returned the Eagles to a winning record in conference play. Brown poured in 24 points, including a perfect 10 of 10 from the free-throw line.

Guard Travece Turner added 18

points and five assists.

Gales earned a double-double with 17 points and 15 boards. After leading 39-33 at halftime, the Eagles went on a second half scoring spurt, and held a 74-51 lead with 6:53 remaining.

After abandoning a failing full-court press that led to many Lady Eagle fast breaks, EKU made a furious run to pull within three in the final minute. Three foul shots by Gales and Brown put the game out of reach, giving MSU its first win over Eastern since 2001.

Final games big for hoops squads

BY BROOKS REXROAT
SPORTS EDITOR

Both the men's and women's basketball teams have at least two games remaining. After that, a loss means an end to the season.

Saturday's match-ups with Austin Peay will go a long way to determine the seeds, and in the Lady Eagles' case, the playing site for the OVC tournament, which begins Tuesday.

The Eagles (19-7, 13-2) would guarantee a top seed in the tournament with a victory over Austin Peay (18-7, 11-3). While MSU is already guaranteed a share of the league title and a home game in the first round, the team will look for revenge against the only OVC team to win in Morehead this season.

"That's the beauty of conference play," junior forward Ricky Minard said. "They've gotta play us twice."

Head coach Kyle Macy said the team is in good shape for the tournament regardless of Saturday's outcome, but his players are ready for Austin Peay.

"We're champions no matter what happens there, but obviously we want to do down there and play

our best game so we've got some momentum going into the tournament," Macy said. A regular season championship is great, but it's the tournament winner who plays in the NCAA, and that's what these guys want to do."

The Lady Eagles will face an Austin Peay squad that has yet to fall in OVC play. If APSU wins tonight against second place Eastern Kentucky, the Eagles will be the last team with an opportunity to interrupt the Lady Goves' perfect season.

MSU needs a win over Peay or a loss by Tennessee-Martin to guarantee a home contest Tuesday.

Martin and Morehead will likely play each other in the first round, regardless of the site. "We took a lot for granted. The last time we met up with Austin Peay, we were still learning to play with one another. We had a few injuries. I feel like it's going to be a whole different bulgane with Austin Peay."

The Lady Eagles will kick off the double-header at 6:30 p.m. and the men will follow at 8:30. Both games can be heard on WQXX, 106.1 FM, Morehead.

OVC | Men's takes four game win streak into final contest

From Page 7

Eastern Kentucky forward Shawn Fields.

As the ball plinked harmlessly off the rim, an emotional group of Eagles celebrated while the student section erupted into a mob on the floor.

It was the kind of scene typically reserved for championship games, not a predicted mismatch between the conference-leading Eagles and a short-handed Colonel squad that is simply fighting for anything but the eighth seed in the approaching OVC tournament.

Sykes hit the game-stealing foul shot as the completion of a three-

point play after a dramatic lay-up.

With Fields and his 36 points on the court, though, the next four seconds remained time. As the buzzer sounded Johnson arena filled with a level of emotion quite possibly unparalleled in the building's history.

As Eagle players and fans celebrated and television cameras focused on Eagles embracing each other, Eastern players fell to the floor in agony near their bench, frustrated by one of the most difficult weeks in the program's history.

In addition to Sykes' last second heroics, the Eagles were carried by a huge performance by Minard, who racked up a career-high 43 points as he abused the Colonel defense. Minard also led the team with eight rebounds.

Trail Blazer Student-Athlete of the Week: Ricky Minard



Ricky Minard

Junior forward Ricky Minard was named the OVC player of the week the past two weeks. He now has earned four such honors this season.

Minard hit a career-high 43 points in a one point Eagle victory over Eastern Kentucky Feb. 15. He then averaged 28.5 points in contests with Murray and UT-Martin last week.

The Mansfield, Ohio native ranks among the top 30 nationally with a 22.5 point average.

Minard is a sports management major.

Ricky Minard is the Trail Blazer student athlete of the week.

Faces in the Crowd



Jeremy Booher

Jeremy Booher is the president and co-founder of the Eagle M.A.F.I.A. (Morehead Athletic Fans in Action).

He is also known as the "Blue Man" due to his distinctive body painting during MSU athletic contests.

Booher says he makes an effort to attend as many athletic competi-

tions as possible, but he attends all home basketball, football and volleyball games.

The M.A.F.I.A. was founded three years ago to cultivate support for MSU athletic programs, and Booher says he'd like to think the group makes an impact.

The Trail Blazer salutes Jeremy Booher, a face in the crowd.

Sports staff writers can be reached at
sports@trailblazeronline.net



Tennis teams struggle at Chattanooga

What would have been a three match, three state road trip over three days for the Morehead State men's and women's tennis teams turned out just to be a two-way ticket to University of Tennessee-Chattanooga this past weekend. Due to expected bad weather, the Wofford College (S.C.) and Georgia Southern legs of the trip were nixed and both teams returned empty handed as UTC's Mocs won 5-2 and 7-0, respectively.

The men's tennis team (2-5) picked up its only points at the No. 4 and 5 spots with wins by newcomers Kim Kachel and Daniel Arhls. Kachel held off UTC's Dustin Kane 6-3, 7-6, while fellow Aussie native Arhls cruised to a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Alex Mabried.

On the women's side, Morehead

State (0-2) could not pull out a point despite three-set matches from freshman Veron Baerwick and sophomore Ariana Gracia-Medrano. At No. 3, Baerwick won the first set 7-5, but her opponent Catherine Allen fought back to take the next two sets 6-1, 6-2. Gracia-Medrano, at no. 6, fought back after losing the first set 6-4 to take the second in a tiebreaker. The match was decided with a super-tiebreak and UTC's Lauren Snipes edged ahead with a 10-5 victory.

The women's team competes Mar. 2 at ECU, while both squads will compete March 8 at IUPUI.

Track squads prepare for OVC meet

The men's and women's track teams will take the long haul to Eastern Illinois for the OVC indoor track and field championships Friday and Saturday in Charleston,

Illinois.

The Eagles enter the meet with several athletes ranked among conference leaders.

Through meets of Feb. 23, senior distance runner Karen Lutes is ranked second in the 1,500 meters (5:08) the 3,000 meters (10:16) and the 5,000 meters (18:31).

Track thrower Debbie Criss also has medal aspirations, and enters the meet ranked eighth in the shot put with a recorded throw of 41'09".

On the men's side, Jason Raliff enters ranked eighth in the 35 meter hurdles, having posted a time of 8.6 seconds.

Pole Vaulter Joe Holtbrook also enters with the eighth best mark. He has vaulted 13'06" this season.

The men's 1,600 meter relay enters the meet ranked fifth in the conference with a time of 3:40.

Field events and some sprint preliminaries will be held Friday night, with final starting Saturday morning and lasting all day.

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